Starting Word 97 as a Beginner

Microsoft *in* **Education**

What you will learn from this lesson

With Word 97 you will:

- Explore and use the Page Layout view.
- Explore and use templates and wizards.
- Work and become familiar with the Office Assistant.
- Open an existing document.
- Create a new document.
- Change font size and color.
- Save a document as a new or existing document or in a different file format.
- Close the file and quit the program.

What you should do before you start this lesson

Starting Word 97

1. Click the **Start** button in the lower-left corner.
2. Position the mouse pointer to **Microsoft Word,** and click again.

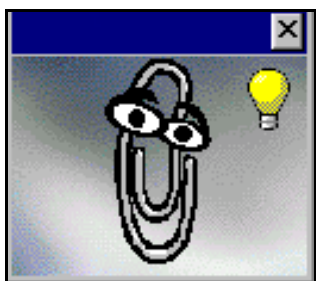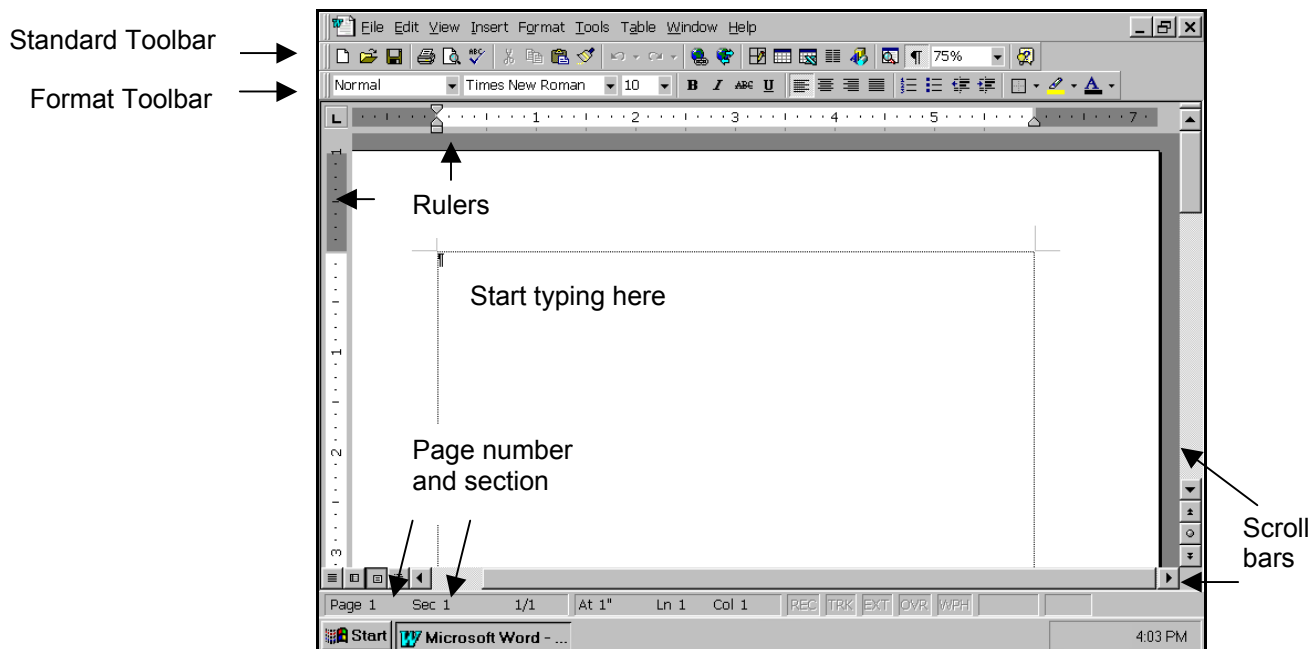Word 97 will start, and a new document will open.
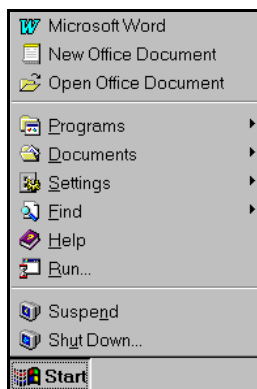
Note
If your software installation looks different from this image, click **Programs** to see the menu, and select **Microsoft Word.**

M

Exploring the lesson

Exploring the Word 97 window

The Page Layout view shows your document in a professional layout style. Look at the standard screen that appears after you open the program. (Screens may vary, depending on the Office 97 package you have.) As you become more familiar with the available options in Word 97, you can customize the menus and add buttons to the toolbars.

Here is the initial screen you see when you open Word 97.

Standard Toolbar

Format Toolbar

Rulers

Start typing here

Page number and section

Scroll bars

Using Office Assistant

Microsoft Word in Office 97 has an Office Assistant that can answer your questions and give tips to help you improve your productivity. Wherever you are doing your task, your Office Assistant is available. Use it to learn more about and to discover faster and easier ways to use Microsoft Word 97.

When you first install Word 97, Office Assistant looks like an expressive paper clip looking over your work.

Working with Office Assistant options

Before you begin this lesson, make sure you are in a new Word 97 document. (To open a new document quickly, press CTRL+N.) If your Office Assistant is not visible, click the question mark button on the Standard toolbar, and Office Assistant appears.

Presetting topics for assistance

1. Click anywhere in the Office Assistant image box to display the **Office Assistant** dialog box.

2. Click **Options,** and click the boxes next to the options you want to preset.

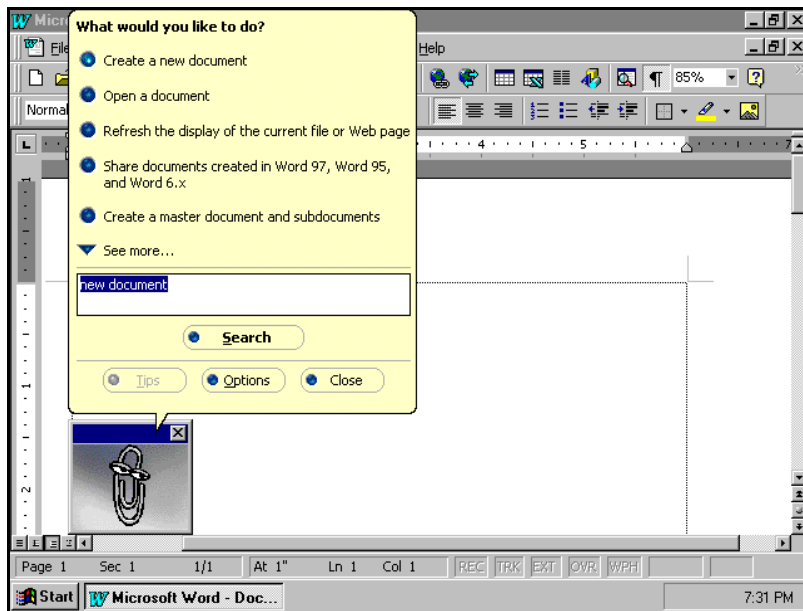3. Click **Reset my tips,** and click **OK.**

Working with Office Assistant questions
Asking a specific question

1. Click anywhere in the Office Assistant image box to display the **Office Assistant** dialog box.

2. Type *new document* into the dialog box.

3. Click **Search**.

4. Click **Create a new document,** and read the Help topic that appears.

5. Close the Help window.

Selecting a different image
Although the paper clip is the default image for Office Assistant in Word 97, you can choose other images as your Assistant. There is a cat, a bouncing ball, a kindly genius, and several others.

Choosing a different image

1. Right-mouse click the **Office Assistant** image box.

2. Click **Choose Assistant.**

3. Click the **Next** button until you find the image you want for your Office Assistant.

4. Click **OK** when you have made your selection.

Creating a new Word 97 document

There are three ways to create a new Word 97 document. You can use a standard template, and then "fill in the blanks"; you can use one of the built-in wizards; or you can just create your own document. Using a wizard or template to create a new document saves time.

Using a template

Templates store boilerplate text, custom toolbars, macros, shortcut keys, styles, and so on.

Using the template process

1. On the **File** menu, click **New.**

2. Click each tab to view the available templates.

3. Click the **Letters & Faxes** tab, and then click **Professional Letter** to see the letter style in the Preview window.

4. Click **OK,** or double-click **Professional Letter** to open the template.
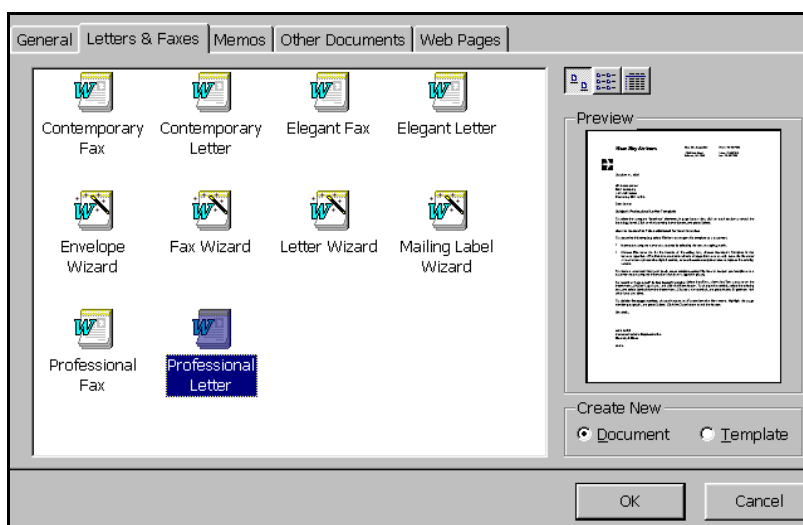

5. Click in each area of the letter to enter your school name, the recipient's address, and so on, and write a thank you letter for goods donated to your classroom.

6. When you're finished working on your letter, from the **File** menu, click **Save.** The **Save As** dialog box will appear.

7. In the **File name** box, type *xxThank you.doc*, using your initials instead of *xx.*

8. Click **Save.**

9. On the **File** menu, click **Close** to close the document.
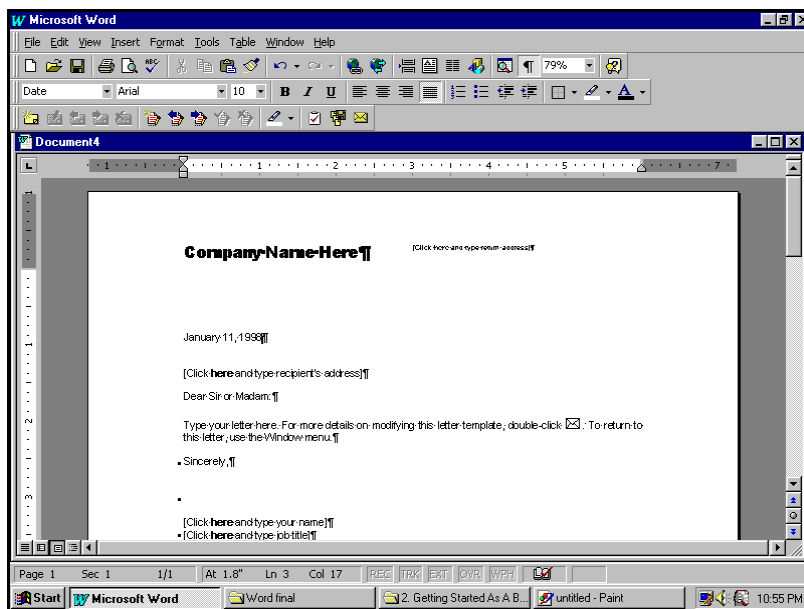
Note
To enlarge the appearance of an open document, use **Zoom** on the Standard toolbar.
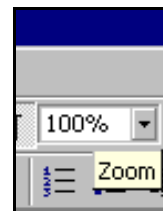

Using a wizard

You can create a Word 97 document using the wizard method. Wizards help you design letters, newsletters, directories, resumes, online forms, and common memos.

Using a wizard to create a letter

1. On the **File** menu, click **New.**

2. Click the **Letters & Faxes** tab.

3. Double-click **Letter Wizard.**
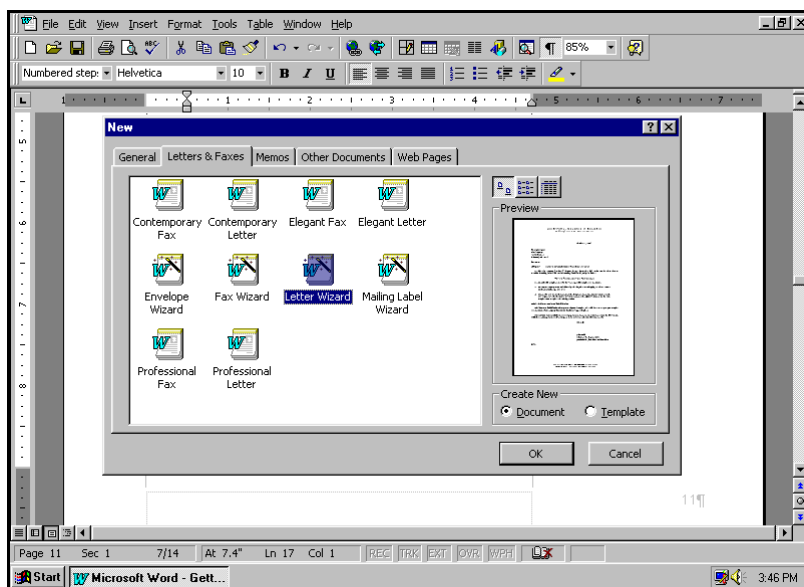
4. In the **Office Assistant** dialog box, click **Send one letter.**

5. In the **Letter Wizard** dialog box, click the **Date line** box to use today's date. You can also type a different date or choose a different format from the **Date line** list box.

6. Click **Next** to continue.

7. Type the recipient's name and address in the **Recipient's name** and **Delivery address** boxes.

8. Under **Salutation,** click the type of opening you want to use.

9. Click **Next** to continue.

10. Click check boxes and type in text to include other elements in your letter.

11. Click **Next** to continue.

12. Type your name, return address, and job title in the appropriate boxes. Click the **Complimentary closing** arrow to choose the closing for your letter.

13. Click **Finish.**

14. At this point you have selected and entered all the components, except for the body of the letter. Click **Rerun Letter Wizard** in the Office Assistant dialog box to start a new document.
– or –
Click **Cancel** in the **Office Assistant** box to close the wizard and finish your letter.

15. When you're finished working on your letter, from the **File** menu, click **Save.** The **Save As** dialog box will appear.

16. In the **File name** box, type the name you want to give this letter.

17. Click **Save.**

18. On the **File** menu, click **Close** to close the document.
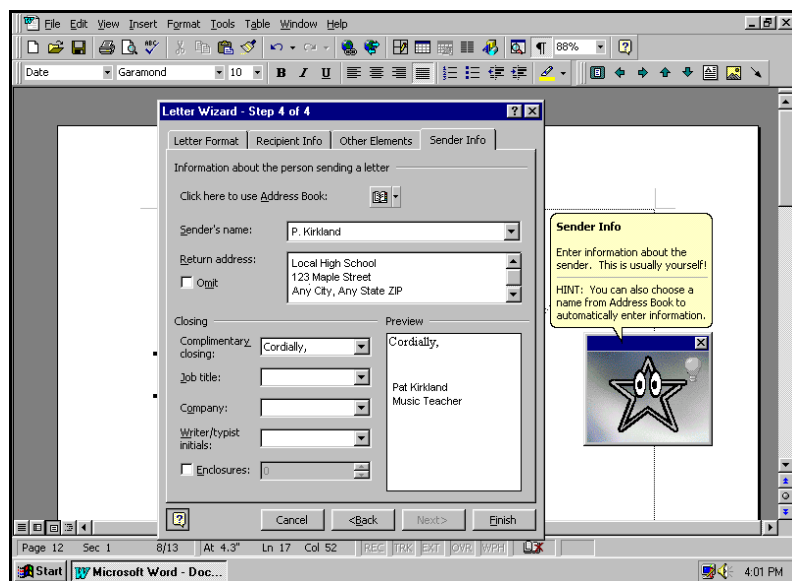
As you can see, the wizard is an easy tool to use, and it provides a fast, efficient way to create a document. As a teaching tool, a Letter wizard shows students the types of letters, elements of letters, and position of the elements. Once students enter information through the wizard, they can then concentrate on the contents of the letter.
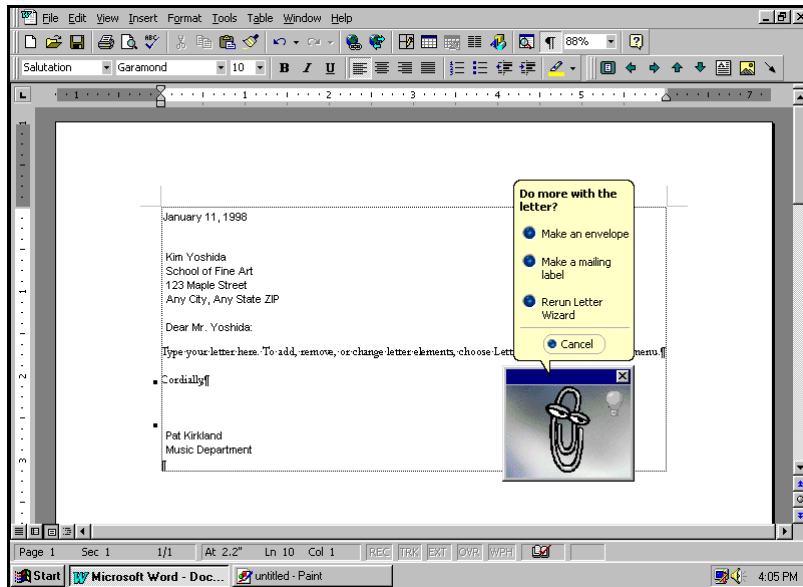
Creating your own document

Creating your own original document in Word 97 is easy to do, too. You can begin typing your document right away, or you can customize it to take advantage of the many Word 97 features. The following exercise will change your screen to show where your margins are and allow you to see all nonprinting characters, such as carriage returns, spaces, and tabs.

Creating your own document

1. On the Standard toolbar, click the **New** button.

2. Type the days of the week with a space between each day.

3. Press ENTER each time Word 97 makes a suggestion.

4. Press CTRL+A to select the text.

5. On the **Tools** menu, click **Options.**

6. Click the **General** tab, and then click the **Blue background, white text** box.

7. Click **OK**.

8. On the Standard toolbar, click the **Show/Hide** button to display or remove nonprinting characters such as spaces between words and carriage returns. You can return to the normal screen by repeating steps 5 through 7.

9. To close the document, on the **File** menu, click **Close,** and then click **No.**
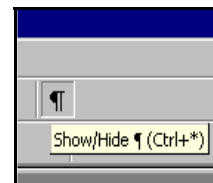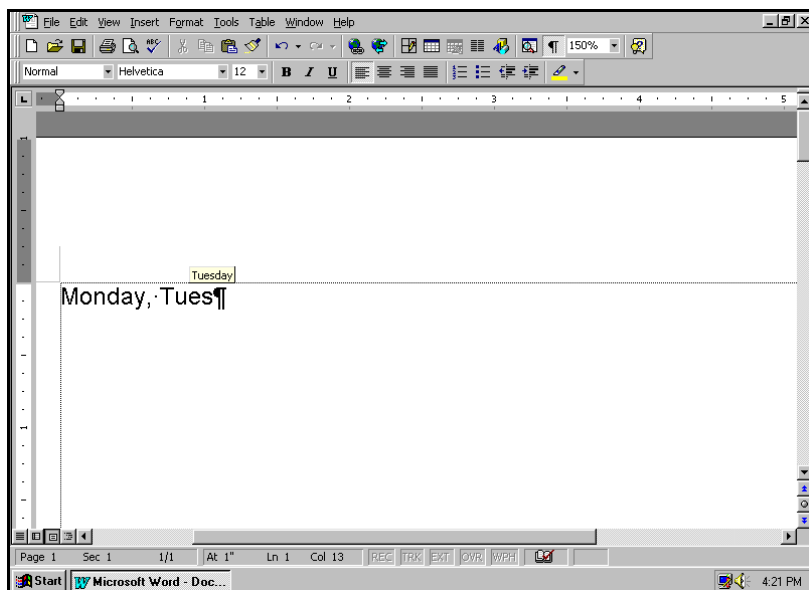
Note
The **New** button is on the Standard toolbar.

Note
Use the Show/Hide button when you edit your document.

11

Opening an existing Word 97 file

There are several ways to open a Word 97 file. There is no single right way; use whichever method you prefer.

Using the Start menu

Opening an existing Word 97 file

1. Click the **Start** button, and move the mouse pointer to **Documents** to display the list of files you have opened recently.

2. Click a document to open it.

3. Close the document.
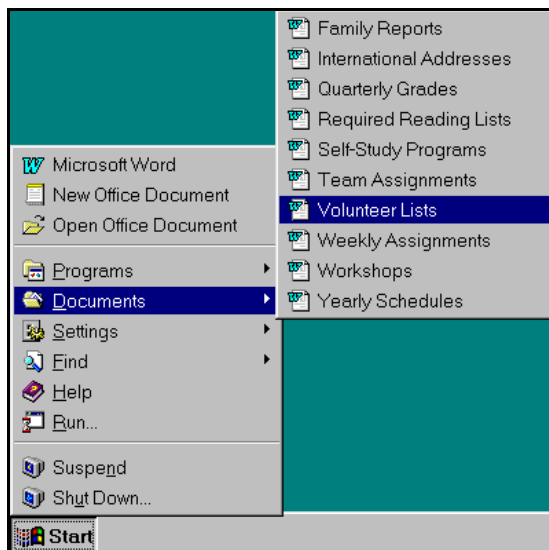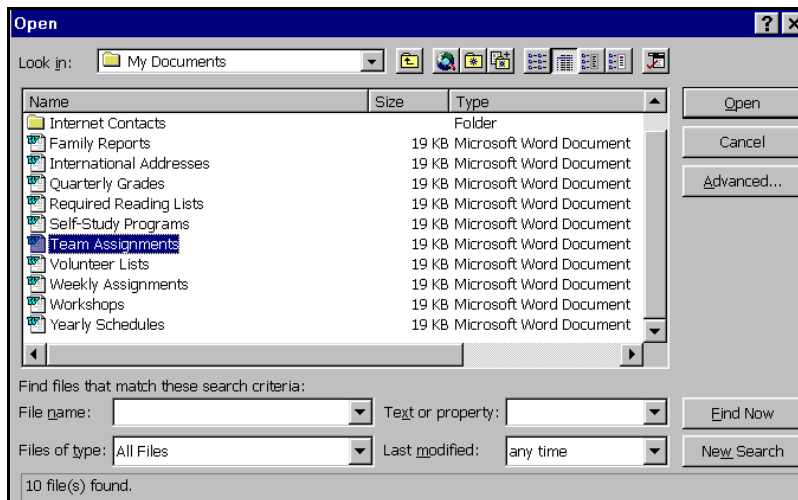
Opening a document from inside Word 97

While using Word 97, you can open another document.

Opening an existing file with the menu bar

1. On the **File** menu, click **Open.**
   – or –
   Press CTRL+O.

2. Double-click the file you want to open.
   – or –
   Select the file name, and click the **Open** button.

3. Close the document.

Changing font size and colors

Part of the versatility of Word 97 is in the variety of font sizes and colors. Ordinary text comes alive with color. This lesson explores the available fonts and color choices.

Changing fonts to explore the variety of Word 97

1. Open a new document.

2. On the **Format** menu, click **Font.**

3. Click the **Font** tab, select **Arial Narrow** from the **Font** list, and observe this and the following changes in the **Preview** box.

4. By using the **Size** scroll bar or typing the number in the dialog box, change the font size to **36.**

5. In the **Color** list, click **Blue.**

6. Under **Effects,** click **Outline.** Click it again to remove this effect.

7. Click **Cancel** to void all changes.

8. Close the document without saving changes.

Each method of creating a Word 97 document has its advantages; use whichever is easiest for you. When you are familiar with templates and wizards, you may find those features useful for creating documents you frequently use. For instance, you can create a student progress note to parents or an administrative schedule that you send to staff weekly. You can create borders, add graphics, and include repetitive information on a frequently used document.

Saving your work

When you create a document, regardless of which method you use, you must save your work in a logical place on the computer. Just like filing a document in a file drawer, storing a computer document requires some attention to how you name the document and where you place it, in order for you to be able to find it again. Unless you specify otherwise, Word 97 saves all files to a default folder on your computer called My Documents.

Once you have saved the document, the file name is displayed in the title bar at the top of the document. You can save files in many ways.

Saving for the first time
When you save the file for the first time, you should name the file as descriptively but as briefly as possible. Sometimes, you will want to name it as a particular version, or as a type of document (i.e., Student Program Letters, V.1.2)

This following lesson uses material excerpted from the U. S Department of Education Report *Getting America's Students Ready for the 21st Century: Meeting the Technology Literacy Challenge.*
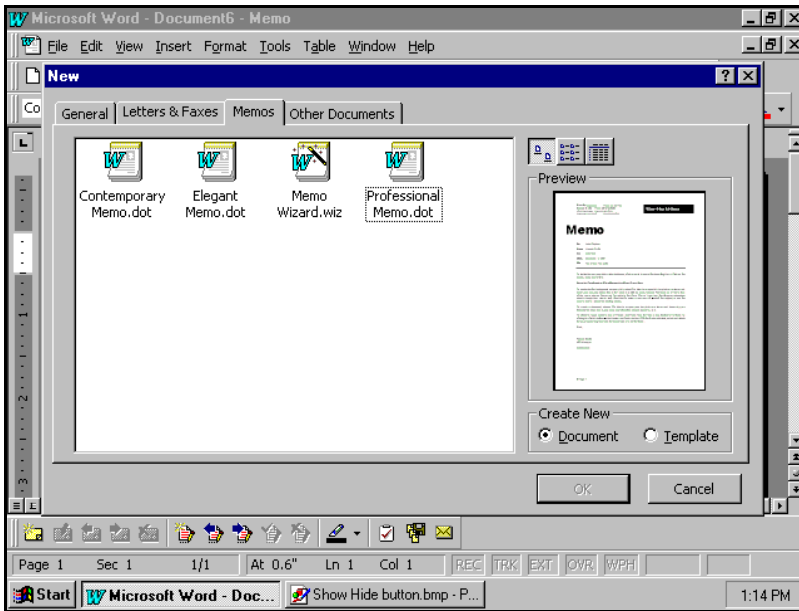
Saving a new document

1. On the **File** menu, click **New.**

2. In the **New** window, click **Professional Memo.dot** and open **Professional Memo.dot**.

3. Type *Local High School* in the **Company Name Here** box.

4. Type this excerpt of the memo from the Department of Education's *Report on Getting America's Students Ready for the 21st Century* in the body of the Professional Memo*:*

   Background

   Technology literacy--meaning computer skills and the ability to use computers and other technology to improve learning, productivity, and performance--has become as fundamental to a person's ability to navigate through society as traditional skills like reading, writing, and arithmetic. Yet, for the most part, these new technologies are not to be found in the nation's schools. Students make minimal use of new technologies for learning, typically employing them for only a few minutes a day.

5. On the **File** menu, click **Save.**

6. In the **File name** box, type *Technology Report.doc.*

7. Click **Save** to save the file.

Saving to a different location and changing the file name

Saving as a different name or to a different folder or disk drive

1. With the document from the previous lesson still open, on the **File** menu, click **Save As** to save the document with a new name.

2. In the **File name** box, type a different document name.

3. Select a folder and/or drive.

4. Click **Save** to save the file.

Saving your document as another file type

If you are saving your document to share with others who may have a version of Word 97 different from yours or other kinds of word-processing programs or documents, you may need to select a different file type. By saving your file as a specific type, you make it possible for others to read and download your document on their computer systems and software.
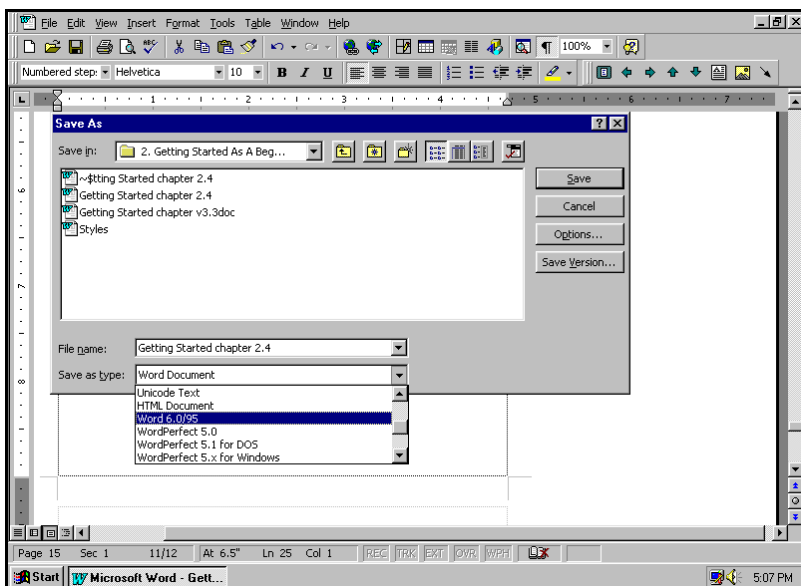
Saving to other Word 97 file types

Saving to earlier versions of Word 97

1. With the document from the previous lesson still open, on the **File** menu, click **Save As.**

2. Click the **Save as type** down arrow to see the format types.

3. Click **Word 6.0/95.**

4. Click **Cancel** to return to Word 97 without saving this document as a Word 6.0/95 document. (Clicking **Save** will overwrite any existing document with the same name and three-letter extension.)

Note
If you want to "back out" of a dialog box and continue working in Word 97, click **Cancel.**

Saving to other word-processing formats
If you want to share a document with someone who has different word-processing software, or transfer the document to another computer that has different software, you can save your document in the file format used by another program.

Saving to other word-processing programs

1. With the document from the previous lesson still open, on the **File** menu, click **Save As.**

2. Click the **Save as type** down arrow to see format types.

3. Click **MS-DOS Text** to select a generic word-processing format.

4. Click **Cancel** to return to Word 97 without saving this document in MS-DOS® Text format.
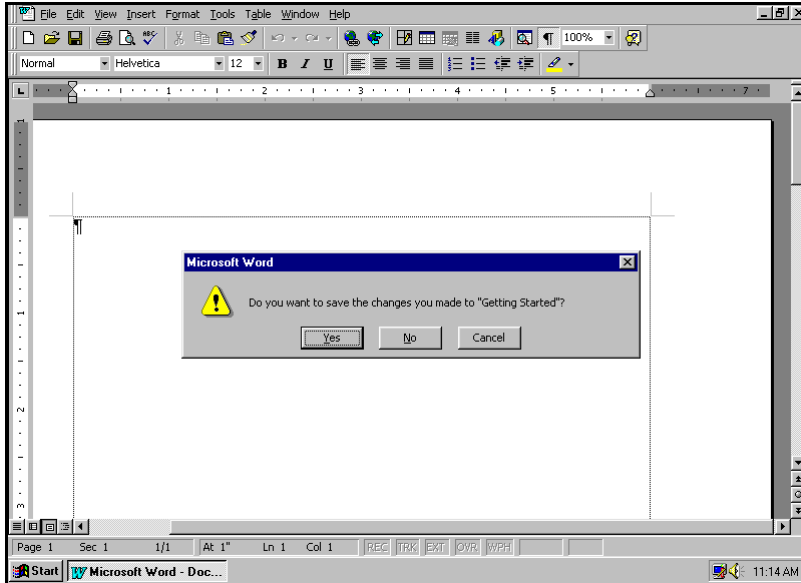

Quitting Word 97

There are several ways to quit Word 97. Always follow proper procedures. All Office 97 applications prompt you to save changes if you try to quit a program without saving your open documents.

Quitting Word 97 using the Exit command
Quitting Word 97 using the Exit command

1. With the document from the previous lesson open, on the **File** menu, click **Exit.**

2. Click **Yes** if you want to save your document and quit Word 97.
   – or –
   Click **No** if you do not want to save the document for future use, but you do want to quit Word 97.
   – or –
   Click **Cancel** if you do not want to close this document.

Quitting Word 97 with keystrokes

If you have already quit in the preceding exercise, open the Professional Memo document at the beginning of this section to create a new document. There are three keystrokes you can use to quit Word 97.

Quitting Word 97 with keystrokes

1. Press ALT+F+X.
   – or –
   Or press ALT+F4.
   – or –
   Or double-click the **Microsoft Word** button in the top-left corner of the screen.

2. Click **Yes** to confirm quitting the program.

Note
You can quit Word 97 quickly when you double-click the **Microsoft Word** button as shown:
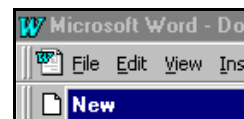
How you can use what you learned

As a teacher, you may want to communicate with your students' parents; using a standard letter for these communications will help you do your job more efficiently. Using Word 97, you can inform parents of their children's class participation or academic progress, or invite parents to open house activities or class presentations.

Note
You can create a Template with your letterhead. Each time you create a document with that Template, your header will appear as you designed it.

Extensions

Create a letterhead that lists your hours of availability and phone numbers. Word 97 makes it is easy to update the stationery each term.

Creating your letterhead

Creating your letterhead from a template

1. Open a new document.

2. Type your name, available hours, and phone numbers.

3. Copy all the text, by pressing CTRL+A and then pressing CTRL+C.

4. On the **View** menu, click **Header and Footer.**

5. Paste the information into the header, by pressing CTRL+V.

6. Center the text, by selecting all the text and then clicking the **Center** button on the Formatting toolbar.

7. To close the header, click **Close** on the Header and Footer toolbar.

8. Delete your name and other information from the document.

9. Save your document, name it *Letterhead,* and close your document.

Note
To center text or align it left or right use the buttons on the Format toolbar.
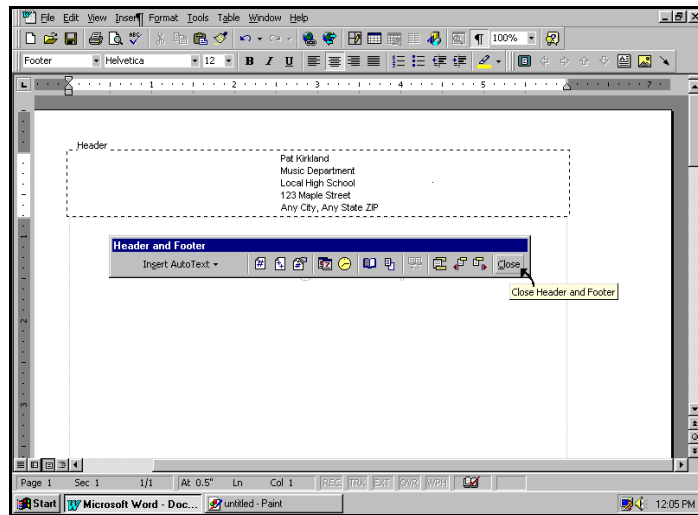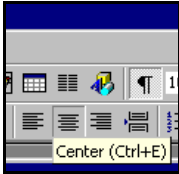
Summarizing what you have learned

Through this chapter you have explored and practiced:

- Using the Page Layout view.

- Using the toolbars.

- Exploring templates and wizards.

- Using Office Assistant.

- Creating new documents.

- Changing fonts.

- Saving documents in Word 97 and other formats.

- Closing a document and quitting Word 97.

- Creating your personal letterhead.